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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/178,126 10/23/98 STIVLAND T 1001.1294101

QM12/0524

EXAMINER

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LAM, A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3763

DATE MAILED:

(17)
05/24/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/178,126	STIVLAND ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ann Y. Lam	3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 49-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 49-74 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 49-55, and 61-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sirhan et al., 5,743,875. Sirhan et al. discloses a first tube (32) including an inflation lumen (36 and proximal portion of 37) in fluid communication with a dilatation balloon (distal portion of 37), an inside wall surface, and an outside wall surface, said first tube having an orifice (42) in a proximal portion of said first tube; a second tube inserted through, and extending distally from said orifice inside said inflation lumen, said second tube having a length, a lumen therethrough, a proximal portion, an inside wall surface and an outside wall surface, see Figure 16, and a bonding region wherein said second tube outside wall surface is bonded to said first tube outside wall surface by re-flow of the first and second tube outside wall surfaces, see column 3, lines 17-23, and column 7, line 59 – column 8, line 16, said second tube inside wall surface being formed of a second, lubricous material for a majority of said second tube length, said first tube wall having a layer of a first, flexible material extending for a majority of said first tube length, said first material being different from said second material, see column 9, lines 46-53.

Art Unit: 3763

As to claim 50, said bonding region is proximate said orifice, see column 5, lines 52-56, and see Figure 6.

As to claim 51, said bonding region includes bonding between said first tube inside surface and said second tube outside surface distal of said orifice, see column 3, lines 17-23.

As to claim 52, said second tube inside and outside wall surfaces are formed of said second material, see column 9, lines 46-53.

As to claim 53, said second tube wall is formed of substantially said second material therethrough, see column 9, lines 46-53.

As to claim 54, said first tube inside surface is formed of said second material proximate said bonding region, see column 9, lines 46-53.

As to claim 55, said first tube has said second material disposed over most of said first tube inside surface proximate said bonding region and distal of said bonding region, see column 9, lines 46-53.

As to claims 61-64, Sirhan et al. disclose that the catheter shaft, including the inner and outer tubular members may be made from polymeric materials such as polyethylene, polyamide, etc and other suitable polymeric materials, see column 9, lines 46-53.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3763

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 56, 67, 69 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sirhan et al., 5,743,875, in view Fontirroche et al., 5,538,510. Sirhan et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, see above. However, Sirhan et al. does not disclose a tie-layer disposed between the inside and outside layers.

Fontirroche discloses a tie-layer, comprising Plexar™ for example, may be used to bond together dissimilar outer plastic layers, see column 2, lines 35-38. Moreover, Fontirroche discloses that the chemical bonding between two catheter layers can be subsequently heat treated, see column 3, lines 17-20. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Plexar as a tie-layer to bond the plastic layers of the Sirhan et al. catheter, as taught by Fontirroche.

Claims 57, 66, 68, 70 and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sirhan et al., 5,743,875, in view Fontirroche et al., 5,538,510, as applied to claims 56, 65, 69, 71, 73 above, and further in view of Berg et al., 5,792,116. Sirhan et al. in view of Fontirroche et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, see above with respect to claim 56. More specifically, Sirhan discloses that polymeric materials may be used to form the inner or outer tubular members, see column 9, lines 46-53. However, Sirhan et al. in view of Fontirroche et al. does not disclose an outside layer of PEBA.

Berg et al. however discloses PEBA as a known polymer used to form catheters, see column 6, line 8. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use PEBA, as taught by Berg et al., as the polymeric material to form the outside layer in the Sirhan et al. in view of Fontirroche et al. device.

Claims 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sirhan et al., 5,743,875, in view of Javier, Jr. et al., 6,093,177. Sirhan et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, see above. However, Sirhan et al. does not disclose the first tube having an inside surface formed of said second material proximate said bonding region and has said inside surface formed of said first material distal of said bonding region.

However, Javier, Jr. et al. discloses that relative flexibility or the inverse stiffness of the various shaft sections of a catheter may be achieved by selecting different materials. “[T]he material used in the intermediate shaft section may be inherently more flexible than a different material used in the proximal or distal shaft sections”, see column 2, lines 5-15. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide different materials on different shaft sections of the Sirhan et al. catheter in order to achieve the desired flexibility of the catheter shaft sections as may be necessary for a particular treatment of a patient

Claims 59, 65 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sirhan et al., 5,743,875, in view of Javier, Jr. et al., 6,093,177 as applied to claim 58 above, and further in view of Fontirroche et al., 5,538,510.

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Sirhan et al. in view of Javier, Jr. et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, see above with respect to claim 58. However, Sirhan et al. in view of Javier et al. does not disclose a tie-layer disposed between the inside and outside layers.

Fontirroche however discloses a tie-layer, comprising Plexar™ for example, may be used to bond together dissimilar outer plastic layers, see column 2, lines 35-38. Moreover, Fontirroche discloses that the chemical bonding between two catheter layers can be subsequently heat treated, see column 3, lines 17-20. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Plexar as a tie-layer to bond the plastic layers of the Sirhan et al. in view of Javier, Jr. et al. catheter, as taught by Fontirroche.

Claims 60 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sirhan et al., 5,743,875, in view of Javier, Jr. et al., 6,093,177, further in view of Fontirroche et al., 5,538,510, as applied to claim 59, and further in view of Berg et al., 5,792,116.

Although Sirhan in view of Javier and further in view of Fontirroche disclose the invention substantially as claimed, they however do not disclose the first tube being formed of PEBA distal of said tie-layer.

Berg et al. however discloses PEBA as a known polymer used to form catheters, see column 6, line 8. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use PEBA, as taught by Berg et al., as the polymeric material to form the outside layer in the Sirhan et al. in view of Fontirroche et al. device.

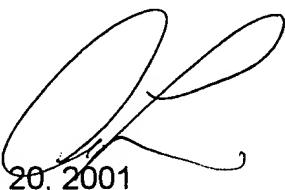
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann Y. Lam whose telephone number is (703) 306-5560. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F 8-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Seidel can be reached on (703)308-5115. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3590 for regular communications and (703)306-4520 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0858.

A.L.
May 20, 2001


ANHTUAN T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
5/21/01